

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 L-02 SS-15 INR-07 SP-02

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R 131351Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9294
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0622

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NO
SUBJ: MILITARY UTILITY AND POLICY VALUE OF MASTER
DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 012376

1. FROM WHAT EMBASSY CAN JUDGE, HIGHLY TECHNICAL MUTUAL WEAPONS
DEVELOPMENT DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT (DEA) PROGRAM IS WELL
ADMINISTERED AND EFFECTIVE. MAAG'S ACTIVITIES ARE PERIODICALLY
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REVIEWED IN THE EMBASSY AT THE LEVEL OF CHIEF OF MISSION OR HIS

DEPUTY, AND THE RECENT RETURN TO OSLO FO MAAG CHIEF FROM TRIP PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IN MORE DETAIL THAN USUAL THE RANGE OF MILITARY AGREEMENTS WITH NORWAY MANAGED BY THE MAAG, INCLUDING EEAS. EMBASSY IS NECESSARILY RATHER DEPENDENT ON THE JUDGEMENT OF THE MAAG CHIEF AND HIS SERVICE AIDES CONCERNING THESE EXCHANGES OF VERY ESOTERIC MILITARY INFORMATION. EVEN THE MAAG HAS DIFFICULTY IN EVALUATING THE UTILITY OF THE INFORMATION AND DEPENDS IN THE LAST ANALYSIS ON THE END-USERS TO MAKE A QUALIFIED JUDGEMENT. INFLUENCED, HOWEVER, TH THE HIGH INTEREST SHOWN BY END-USERS IN BOTH NORWAY AND THE U.S., THE MAAG FEELS THAT THE 15 ACTIVE DEA PROGRAMS ARE GOOD VALUE FOR THE U.S., AND CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY POSTURE IN NATO. IN THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, THE EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO ACCEPT MAAG'S JUDGEMENT. CHIEF OF MISSION HAS CONFIENCE IN HIS WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH MAAG CHEIF AND DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE WISE OR EFFECTIVE TO TRY AND MONITOR THESE HIGHLY TECHNICAL PROGRAMS BY UP-GRADING THE MILITARY-SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE ON HIS STATE STAFF.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE MORE DETAILED QUESTIONS:

A. MANAGEMENT OF THE DEA PROGRAMS OCCUPIES ONLY A RELATIVELY SMALL PORTION OF MAAG'S TIME. THE NAVY CAPTAIN IN CHARGE OF 10 OF THE 15 ACTIVE DEA PGRRORAMS ESTIMATES THAT THEY OCCUPY LITTLE MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF HIS TIME. ALTHOUGH 7 NEW DEAS HAVE BEEN SIGNED IN PAST TWO YEARS, REPRESENTING A NET INCREASE IN WORK AND PROGRAMS, THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN SIZE OF MAAG NOR PRESSURE FOR SUCH AN INCREASE. SHOULD SUCH PRESSURE DEVELOP IN THE FUTURE, IT WOULD REFLECT AN INCREASE IN ACTIVITY UNDER PROGRAMS OTHER THAN MWDDEA (E.G. LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT, SHORAD PURCHASE). MAAG HAS NOT SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS UNDER-STAFFED OR CONCERNED ABOUT ITS FUTURE WORK LOAD, AND THERE WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY NEED IN THE APPRECIABLE FUTURE FOR AN INCREASE IN COMPLEMENT.

B. CHIEF OF MISSION DOES NOT NORMALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY OF VARIOUS DEAS. HE EXPECTS TO BE INFORMED, HOWEVER, BY THE MAAG WHEN ANY NEW AGREEMENTS ARE UNDER NEGOTIATION, AND HAS AN OPPORTUNITY THEN TO ASK QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MAAG KEEPS US ADEQUATELY INFORMED.

:: IN A NUMBER OF CASES, THERE IS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DATA PROVIDED BY U.S. AND LOCAL PRODUCTION. FOR EXAMPLE,SEVERAL PARTS OF NORWEGIAN PENGUIN MISSILE ARE PURCHASED FROM U.S. OR CONSTRUCTED IN NORWAY UNDER LICENSE. IN "UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGY AND DEEP SUBMERGENCE OPERATIONS" THERE IS AN OBVIOUS NORWEGIAN COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN UNDERWATER

SURVEILLANCE OF OIL RIGS, UT THERE IS ALSO A GENUINE MILITARY NEED FOR THIS INFORMATION, GIVEN INCREASED NORWEGIAN ATTENTION TO OFF-SHORE RIG SECURITY PROBLEMS.

D. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT DEAS HAVE CREATED ANY UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS ON THE PART OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT.

3. WHILE THE NORWEGIANS AHVE BENEFITIED TECHNOLOBICALLY AND SCIENTIFICALLY MORE THAN THE U.S. GIVEN THE DIFFERENT LEVEL OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, WE ALSO HAVE GOTTNEN OUR "MONEY'S WORTH." NOT ONLY IN INCREASED NORWEGIAN MILITARY CAPABILITY AND THEREFORE CONTRIBUTION TO NATO, BUT IN DIRECT FLOW OF DATA AND MATERIEL. UNDER "NAVAL INFRARED ANTI-SHIP MISSILE COUNTER-MEASURES" PROGRAM, WE HAVE PURCHASED NORWEGIAN-DESIGNED "INFRA-SEEKERS." AND PROVIDED MATERIEL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS EQUIPMENT, THUS GAINING BOTH TECHNOLOGICALLY AND COMMERCIALY. IN THE AREA OF GLASS-REINFORCED PLASTIC CRAFT, WE HAVE MUCH TO LEARN FROM THE NORWEGIANS (WE BOUGHT THEIR NASTY BOSTS FOR VIETNAM.) THE SONAR AND UNDERWATER SOUND PROGRAM IS EXTREMELY ACTIVE AN USEFUL TO U.S. NAVY. IN THE RARE CASE OF AN OLD PROGRAM LIKE "EXPLOSIVE ORDANCE DISPOSAL," WE NUDGE THE NORWEGIANS WHEN WE FELT THE FLOW OF INFORMATION HAD BECOME TOO ONE-SIDED, IMPLYING WE MIGHT CLOSE DOWN THE PROGRAM; NORWAY BECAME MUCH MORE ACTIVE. AN"ENERGY CONVERSION" ARMY PROGRAM WILL BE TERMINATED IF IT DOES NOT BECOME MORE ACTIVE AND TERMINATION ACTION IS PENDING ON AN AIR FORCE "ATMOSPHERIC RADIOACTIVITY" PROGRAM. THUS, THE SYSTEM FOR PHASING OUT ONE-SIDED OR USELESS PROGRAMS APPEARS TO BE OPERATING EFFECTIVELY.

BYRNE

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